

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mechanism for debugging a transformation document is disclosed, wherein a debugging mechanism interacts with a user interface to enable a user to specify one or more breakpoints. The user may specify a breakpoint at a particular location in the transformation document or a source document. In addition, the user may specify one or more breakpoints using an expression, or based upon XSL messages. In addition to interacting with the user interface, the debugging mechanism also interacts with a transformation processor, which is the mechanism that actually processes the source and transformation documents to derive a result document. Before and after each processing action, the transformation processor sends a pre-action and a post-action message, respectively, to the debugging mechanism. The debugging mechanism uses the information in these messages to determine whether a breakpoint has been reached. If a breakpoint has been reached, then processing of the documents is halted until further instruction is received from the user. In this manner, the user is able to see intermediate processing results, which aids in debugging the transformation document.